AKIRA 21™

KATSUHIRO OTOMO

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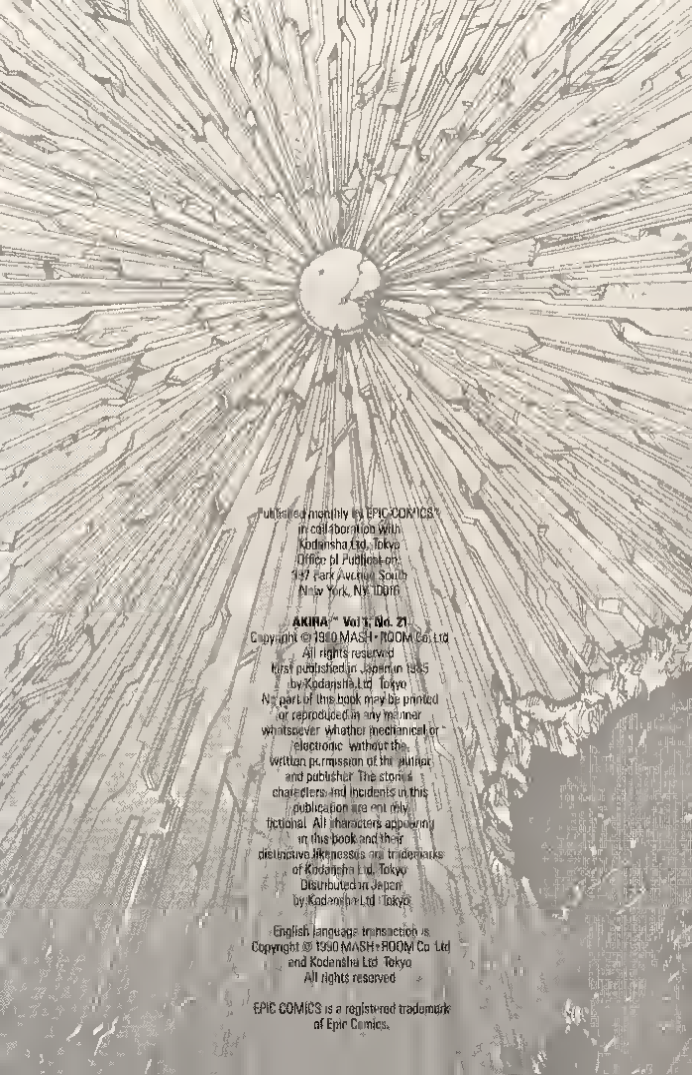

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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 21

THE RAGE AND THE TORMENT

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

Twenty-thirty. The world stands poised at the edge of World War IV. An explosion of thermonuclear proportions has been set off in **Neo-Tokyo**. The world particularly the superpowers wonders what has happened. In **Neo-Tokyo** in a section known as the "old city" a band of teenaged delinquents led by **Kaneda** encounters **Number 26** a child named **Takashi** who uses extraordinary telekinetic abilities to injure **Tetsuo** one of Kaneda's close friends.

As a result, **Kaneda** and **Tetsuo** become entangled in a power struggle between a mysterious military and scientific organization led by the **Colonel** and an underground resistance group bent on putting a stop to the Colonel's activities.

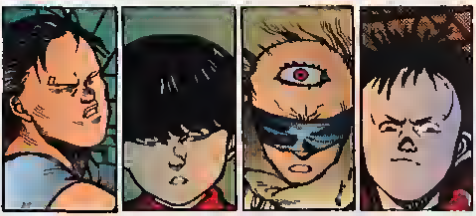
Among the resistance **Kaneda** meets **Kay**—a girl he alternately maddens and tries to seduce—and Kays "brother" **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko**. Other important resistance leaders include Ryu's superior—the opposition leader **Nezu**—and a powerful religious leader with precognitive gifts **Lady Miyako**.

The **Colonel** has a number of psychic children like **Number 26** under his control. Each child possesses a distinct set of psychic talents and is identified by a number marked on the hand. At one time **Lady Miyako** was **Number 19** in this series. **Number 28** is **Akira**, so powerful that since the war he has been suspended in cryogenic sleep.

The Colonel's staff conducts experiments which awaken tremendous telepathic potential in **Tetsuo**, who is redubbed **Number 41**. Able to shrug off the most serious injuries **Tetsuo** goes on a killing spree, murdering one of Kanedas friends and even attacking **Kaneda**. Then followed by **Kay** and **Kaneda**, **Tetsuo** seeks out **Akira**, whose powers he thinks may rival his own.

Akira's power responds to Tetsuos psychic energy. His cryogenic chamber cracks from within and **Akira** emerges dazed after his long sleep.

Terrified of what may occur, the **Colonel** summons the powerful SOL military satellite and orders that its laser cannon be fired at **Tetsuo** and **Akira**. **Kay**



Chiyoko Akira Seer Tetsuo

and **Kaneda** save **Akira**, but **Tetsuo** is less fortunate. The laser strikes his left arm.

Neo-Tokyo is placed in a state of military emergency following the disaster. "Caretaker robots" patrol the streets, dealing harshly with the looters and restoring order. The **Colonel** stages a successful coup d'état.

Nezu betrays the resistance, planning to kidnap and exploit **Akira**, but is thwarted by a team of young psychics trained by **Lady Miyako**. **Nezu** orders his men to kill Miyako's psychics and his own resistance fighters, and **Ryu** guns his former master down. **Ryu** leaves **Nezu** for dead.

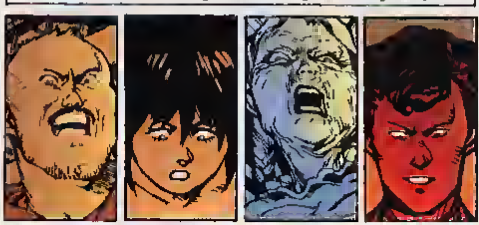
Ultimately **Sakaki**—the sole survivor of Lady Miyako's group—is cornered by the Colonel's troops, along with **Rya**. **Akira**, **Kaneda**, **Kay**, and **Chiyoko**. **Sakaki** is killed trying to escape, but all seems well when **Takashi** fondly greets **Akira** and reintroduces him to their fellow psychics **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**. **Nezu** dying and determined for revenge, arrives and tries to kill **Akira**, killing **Takashi** instead.

The trauma of Takashi's death galvanizes **Akira**, who fully awakens and unleashes a coherent light blast powerful enough to devastate the entire city. Acting quickly, **Masara** and **Kiyoko** sweep most of the people in the area upward, and **Kaneda** is last seen vanishing toward the sky. In the wake of the disaster **Lady Miyoko** opens her temple and offers shelter and comfort to those in need, gathering large groups of followers in the east.

Neo-Tokyo is completely cut off from the rest of the outside world, and in the western part of the city the Great Tokyo Empire is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his Prime Minister. The Empire is eventually infiltrated by teams of spies sent from outside to learn what is happening in the city.

The **Colonel** is alone, living in hiding. **Masaru** and **Kiyoko** are sick with withdrawal from the drug which augments and channels psychic powers, and **Kiyoko** tells **Kay** to find **Number 19**. The two meet with **Lady Miyako**, who gives them medicine to help **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**, and asks that **Kay** bring the other psychics to her.

Most of the spies from the outside are hunted down and killed. Only their leader **Lt. Yamada** escapes. When Tetsuo's followers are on the verge of catching **Yamada** again, **Ryu**



The Colonel **Kaori** **Kiyoko** **Tetsuo's Aide**

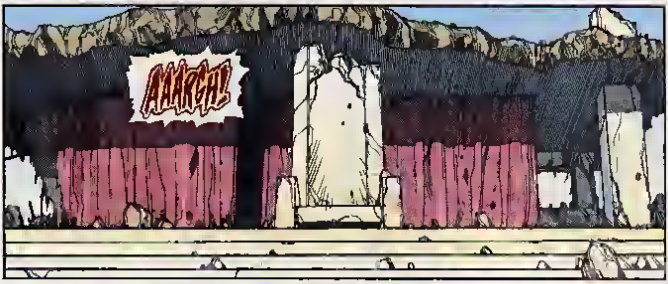
appears and leads him to safety **Ryu** attempts to gain Yamada's trust, but the **Lieutenant** refuses to tell **Ryu** who has sent him or let **Ryu** join him. **Yamada** does, however, reveal that Russia has conquered part of Japan, and that the Americans' fear of **Akira** makes them reluctant to get involved.

Taken from the breadline three young girls are given to **Tetsuo** for his pleasure. He orders the girls to swallow capsules of mind altering drugs. Only one girl—**Kaori**—who palmed her capsule survives. Under the influence of the drugs **Tetsuo** relives his past, sees visions of the present and the possible future as well. Afterwards, believing that his mental resonance with **Akira** is responsible for the odd mental voyage, **Tetsuo** looks into the mind of his Emperor. He emerges a withdrawn, shuddering wreck. Once recovered, **Tetsuo** decides that **Lady Miyako**—whose mind he also briefly touched—may be able to explain matters to him. Taking a hefty dose of power enhancing medication, **Tetsuo** teleports to the temple of the religious leader. **Lady Miyako** recounts to him the experiments decades earlier which created the numbered psychics from human children. She states that the designations in the twenties were reserved for those of the greatest power. **Lady Miyako** also reveals that the World War III began with a mental blast from **Akira** which destroyed Tokyo and killed the scientist who created the twenties group. Finally, she warns **Tetsuo** that he alone can control Akira's near-inconceivable powers...by giving up the drug crutch. Disgusted and perplexed, **Tetsuo** departs.

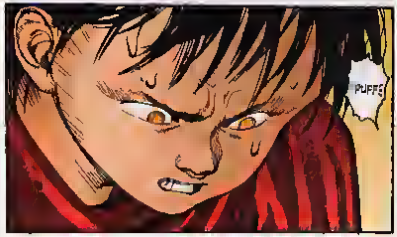
Kay and **Chiyoko** try to move **Masaru** and **Kiyoko** to Lady Miyako's temple. They are attacked by Tetsuo's followers who escape with **Kiyoko**. **Chiyoko** rescues the girl, but is badly wounded. Meanwhile, **Kay**, carrying **Masaru** to safety is harried by a street gang. Making short work of the one who corners her, **Kay** is met by Lady Miyako's followers and escorted with **Masaru** to the safety of the temple. **Chiyoko** is pursued into a rat-infested sewer, where she and **Kiyoko** are saved by the **Colonel**. **Chiyoko**, nearly unconscious, tells her former enemy where to find **Masaru**. She urges the **Colonel** to take **Kiyoko** to **Number 19**.

Ryu **Lady Miyako** **Lt. Yamada** **Kay**

BHOOM
WHRR
IT'S ME.
BHOOM?
KLINK
KLAKLANK
51

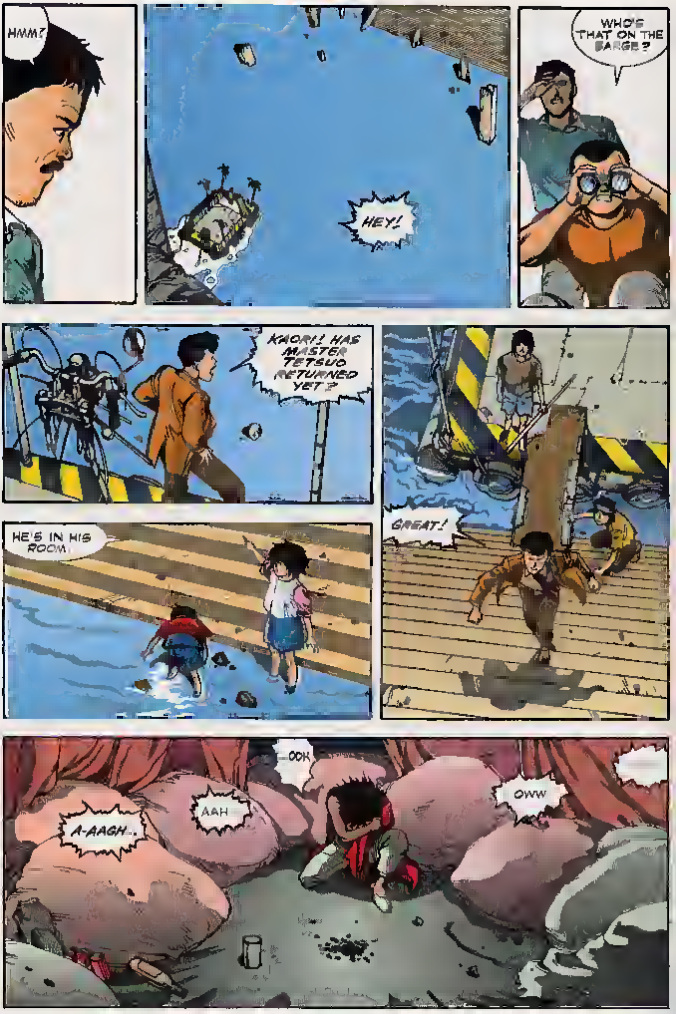

AAARGH!

PUFF!
PUFF!


PUFF!

PUFF!

3 PUFFS
3 PUFFS
POP
SO, FRIEND, YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT THAT SCREAM WAS?
NOPE.
LOOKS PRETTY PEACEFUL, DOESN'T IT? LITTLE AKIRA, PLAYING IN THE WATER JUST LIKE A NORMAL KID.
YOU WON'T SITTING ALL THE WAY OVER HERE, LOOKING THROUGH BINOCULARS WHY DON'T YOU GO AND SEE?


HMM?
HEY!
WHO'S THAT ON THE BARGE?
KAORI! HAS MASTER TETSUO RETURNED YET?
HE'S IN HIS ROOM.
GREAT!
OOH
AAH
OWW
A-AAGH...

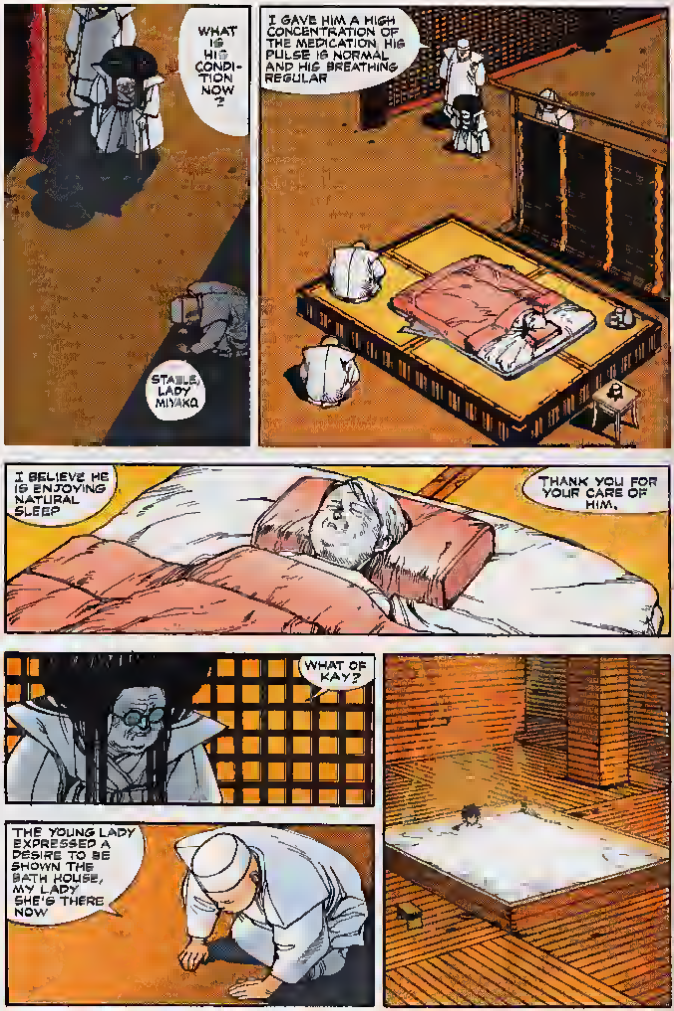
!
lub DUB
AAH...
AHN...
AAUGH!
Kather

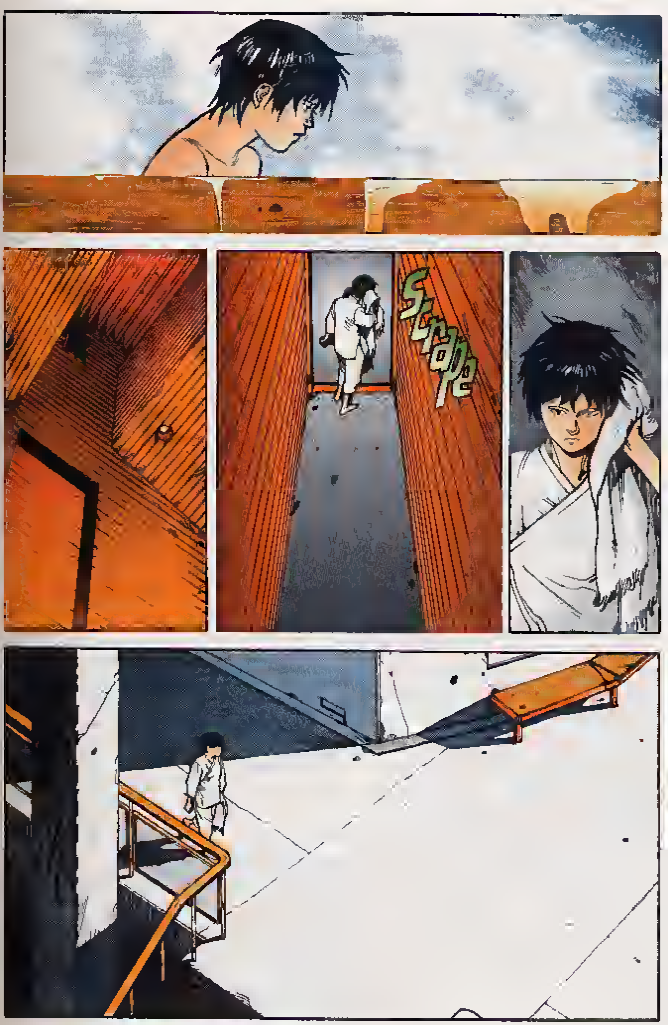
WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THOSE KIDS WE WERE AFTER...
GET LOST.
BUT, MASTER TETSUO, ONE OF THEM...
...LADY MIYAKO'S MEN!...
GET YOUR ASS OUT OF HERE!
YESSIR!
AND STAY OUT.

TAK
TAK
GODAMN IT TO HELL!
DAMN!
SSH
IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE RIGHT, DO IT YOURSELF!
LISTEN UP!
I'M ASSUMING COMMAND OF THE EMPIRE'S ARMY!
GO ROUND UP ALL THE FIGHTING MEN!

DID YOU REMEMBER MY CIGARETTES?
I NEED ALCOHOL TO CLEAN HER WOUND.
MOVE!
A FEW CIGARETTES ISN'T SO MUCH TO ASK FOR...
RRRR
...AND YOU PROMISED!

splash
O-OHH...!
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH THEM COLONEL?
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T PUT YOU OUT.
AND YOU FORGOT MY CIGARETTES! HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO CONCENTRATE WITHOUT THEM?
YOU ALREADY HAVE THAT KID IS IN MY BED
YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT. NOW GET BACK TO WORK!


WHAT IS HIS CONDITION NOW ?
STABLE, LADY MIYAKO
I GAVE HIM A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF THE MEDICATION HIS PULSE IS NORMAL AND HIS BREATHING REGULAR
I BELIEVE HE IS ENJOYING NATURAL SLEEP
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CARE OF HIM.
WHAT OF KAY?
THE YOUNG LADY EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO BE SHOWN THE BATH HOUSE, MY LADY SHE'S THERE NOW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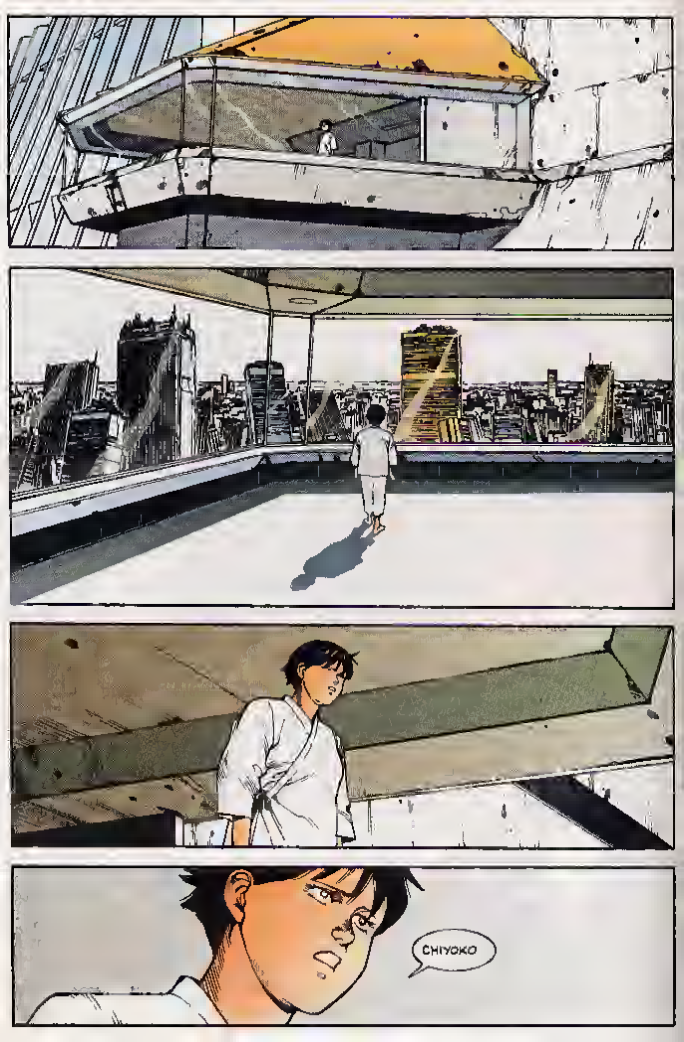
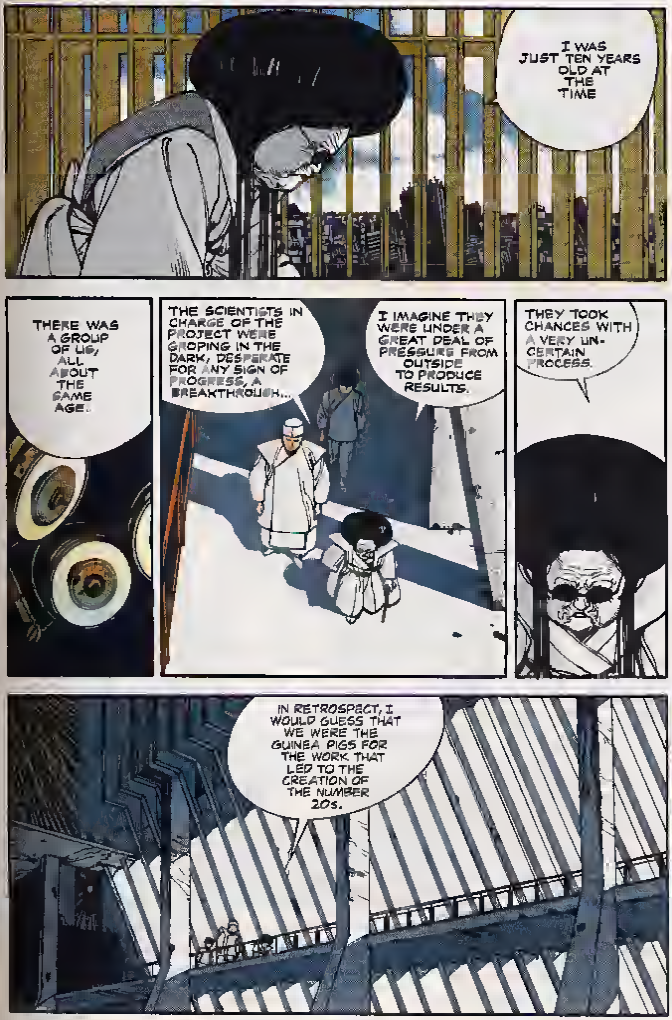

CHIYOKO

A DEPRESSING PROSPECT, IS IT NOT?
AS THOUGH ALL THE MISERY IN THE WORLD WERE LAID OUT FOR YOU TO SEE.
YOU TALK LIKE YOU COULD SEE IT, TOO.
I CAN SEE THROUGH YOUR EYES
MY EYES ?
YOU ARE GIFTED AS A MEDIUM.
POWERLESS YOURSELF, YOU SERVE AS A CHANNEL FOR THE GIFTS OF OTHERS
BY THE WAY ARE YOU HUNGRY?
FAMISHED

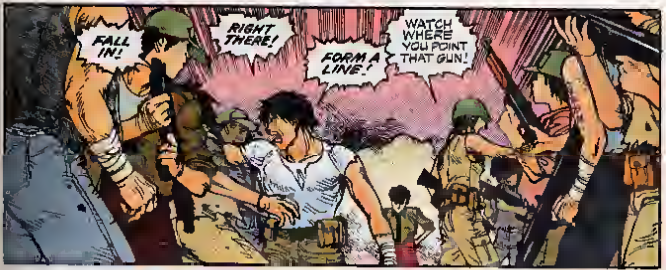
UNFORTUNATELY, ALL WE HAVE TO OFFER IS POOR QUALITY SYNTHETIC FOOD.
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
WHAT IS IT, MY DEAR?
LADY MIYAKO, I MEAN, NUMBER 19...
WHY ARE YOU...
YOU'RE ONE OF THE NUMBERED PEOPLE. WHY AREN'T YOU IN THEIR SECRET LAB?
I HADN'T HEARD OF OTHER LOWER NUMBERS!
ONCE DURING AN EXPERIMENT...
I DIED


I WAS JUST TEN YEARS OLD AT THE TIME
THERE WAS A GROUP OF US, ALL ABOUT THE SAME AGE.
THE SCIENTISTS IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT WERE GROPING IN THE DARK, DESPERATE FOR ANY SIGN OF PROGRESS, A BREAKTHROUGH...
I IMAGINE THEY WERE UNDER A GREAT DEAL OF PRESSURE FROM OUTSIDE TO PRODUCE RESULTS.
THEY TOOK CHANCES WITH A VERY UNCERTAIN PROCESS.
IN RETROSPECT, I WOULD GUESS THAT WE WERE THE GUINEA PIGS FOR THE WORK THAT LED TO THE CREATION OF THE NUMBER 20s.

DURING THE COURSE OF THE EXPERIMENT, I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS. THEY REMOVED ME FROM THE PROJECT--AND PROJECT RECORDS--AND PLACED ME IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION...
...WHICH LASTED THIRTEEN YEARS.
THIR-TEEN YEARS ?
LADY MIYAKO!
THIS IS AN HONOR.
MY LADY!
THANK YOU, YOUR LADYSHIP!
BY THE TIME I AWOKE, NEO TOKYO WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND EVERYONE HAD LONG SINCE FORGOTTEN MY EXISTENCE.
THOSE WHO KNEW MY SECRET VANISHED WHEN TOKYO WAS DESTROYED!
I HAD A DREAM DURING THE LONG YEARS OF SLEEP!
A DREAM ?

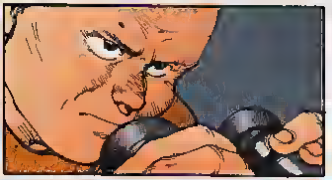
IT WAS COMPOSED OF FRAGMENTARY IMAGES...
...OF AKIRA... NEO-TOKYO... TETSUO AND HIS ALIES... THE FUTURE... THE UNIVERSE... AND OF YOU, MY DEAR, AND YOUR YOUNG FRIEND-- KANEDA.
...KANEDA?...
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM?
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM? WHERE IS HE?!
HE'S BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF THIS WORLD.
TAK
FOR NOW...
LADY MIYAKO -
WE ARE HONORED

ATTENTION!
ATTENTION!
THEY'VE CALLED OUT ALL THE FIGHTING MEN!
HURRY!
HUFF!
HURRY!
HUFF!
COME SHOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SOLDIER OF THE EMPIRE!
Klatter
EVERYONE TAKE A GUN AND COLLECT SOME AMMO.


FALL IN!
RIGHT THERE!
FORM A LINE!
WATCH WHERE YOU POINT THAT GUN!

SOUND OFF!
ONE
TWO
THREE
FOUR
FIVE
SIX

TEN
AGAIN!
ONE
TWO
FOUR



LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE TRYING TO FORM THOSE LOW LIFES INTO SOME SORT OF ARMY
QUESTION IS, WHAT DO THEY NEED AN ARMY FOR?

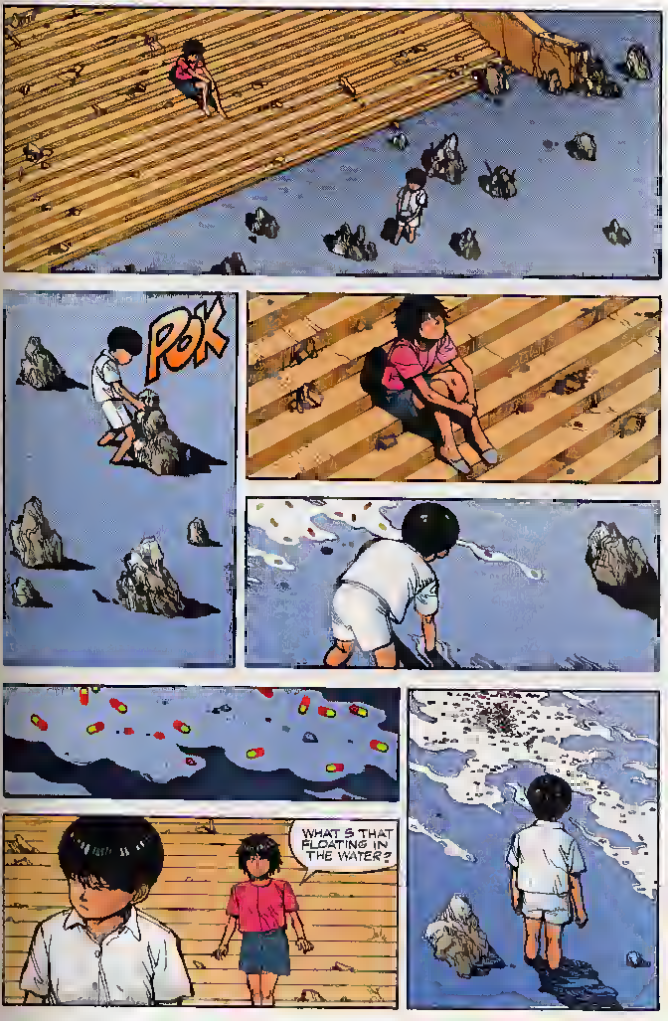
PRAISE THE GREAT LORD AKIRA!!!
BANZAI!
HAIL!
BANZAI!
HAIL!
Hip
hip
HOORAY!

두근
두근
두근
두근
두근
두근

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
NOTHING... I WAS JUST... I MEAN, I WANTED TO SEE HOW THEY...
KLAK
ZZ
D DON T :(
AUGH!!
POW

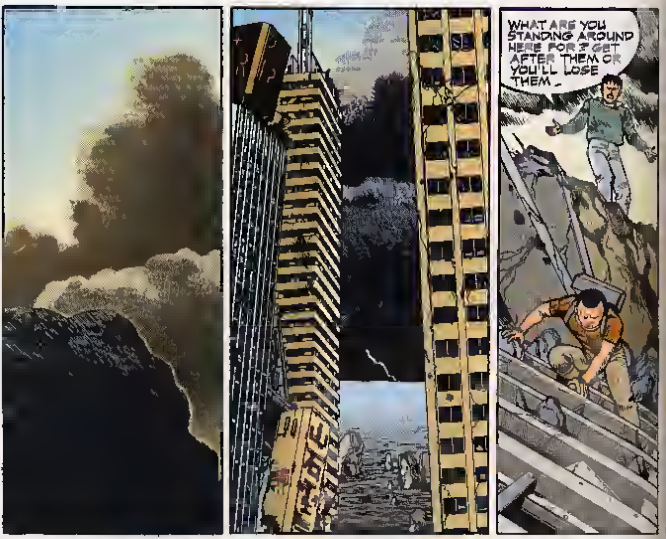
WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH THIS?
TO KILL THAT DETESTABLE CHILD!
WHAT...?
...O-OHH...
SHE AND OTHERS LIKE HER CAUSED THE MESS WE'RE IN!
KILL HER RIGHT NOW!
THE TRAUMA HER DEATH WOULD CAUSE COULD TRIGGER ANOTHER MASSIVE REACTION IN AKIRA!
FOOL! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND ANYTHING?
AND IF IT DOES...?
I HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE!

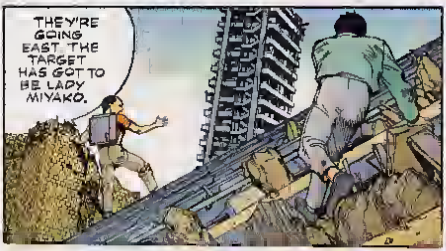
THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THINGS.
I HAVE A GREAT DEAL LEFT TO ACCOMPLISH BEFORE I LET YOU TAKE A STEP THAT WOULD END MY LIFE!
AGH!
BY THE WAY...
I BROUGHT YOU THESE!
NOW GET BACK TO WORK!
MY CIGARETTES!
IF I CAN JUST FIND A MATCH...


POK
WHAT'S THAT FLOATING IN THE WATER?

OH!
SKRSH
SKRSH
THESE ARE MASTER TETSUO'S!
WHAT'S HAPPENED ...?
I THREW THEM AWAY.
MASTER TETSUO!

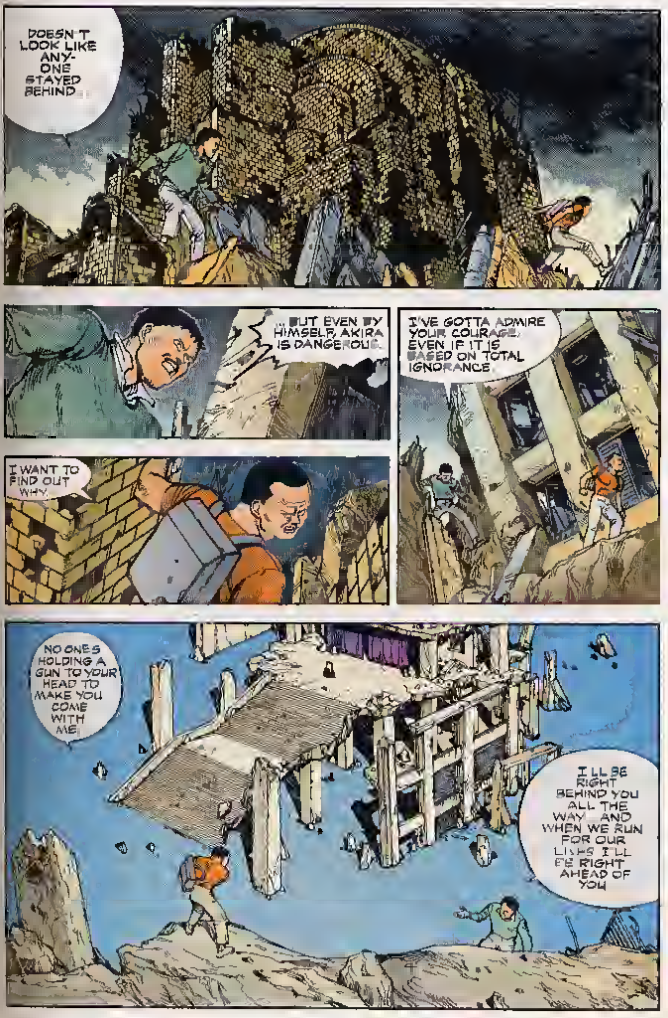
NO MORE OF THAT STUFF FOR ME.
I WANNA GO COLD TURKEY, SO I TOSSED 'EM.
GETTING KIND OF WINDY, ISN'T IT?


WHAT ARE YOU STANDING AROUND HERE FOR? GET AFTER THEM OR YOU'LL LOSE THEM.

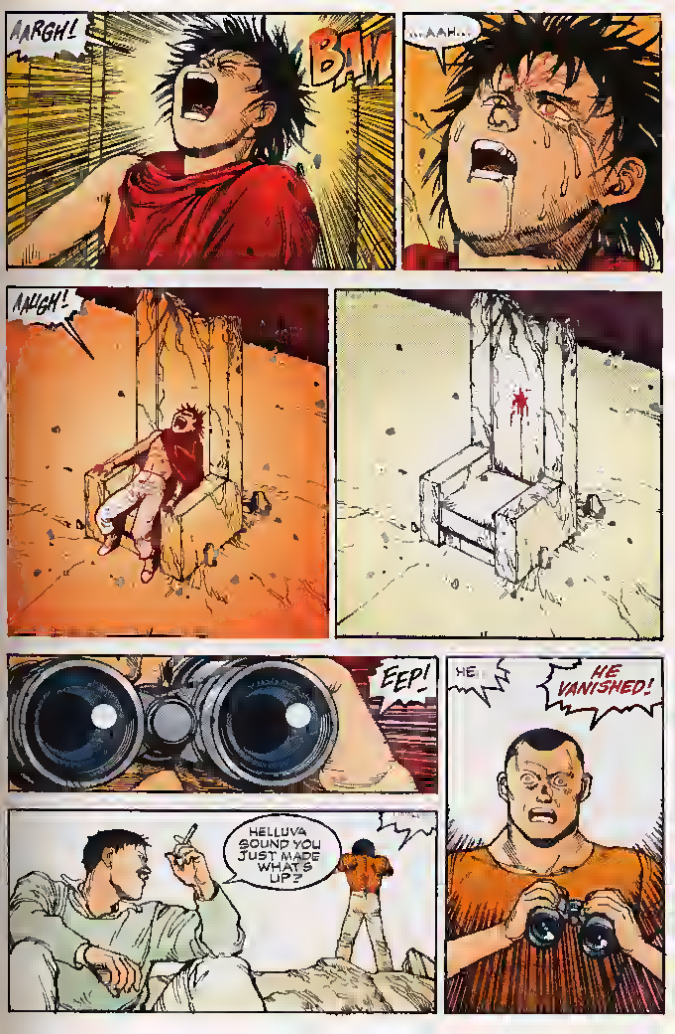

THEY'RE GOING EAST. THE TARGET HAS GOT TO BE LADY MIYAKO.

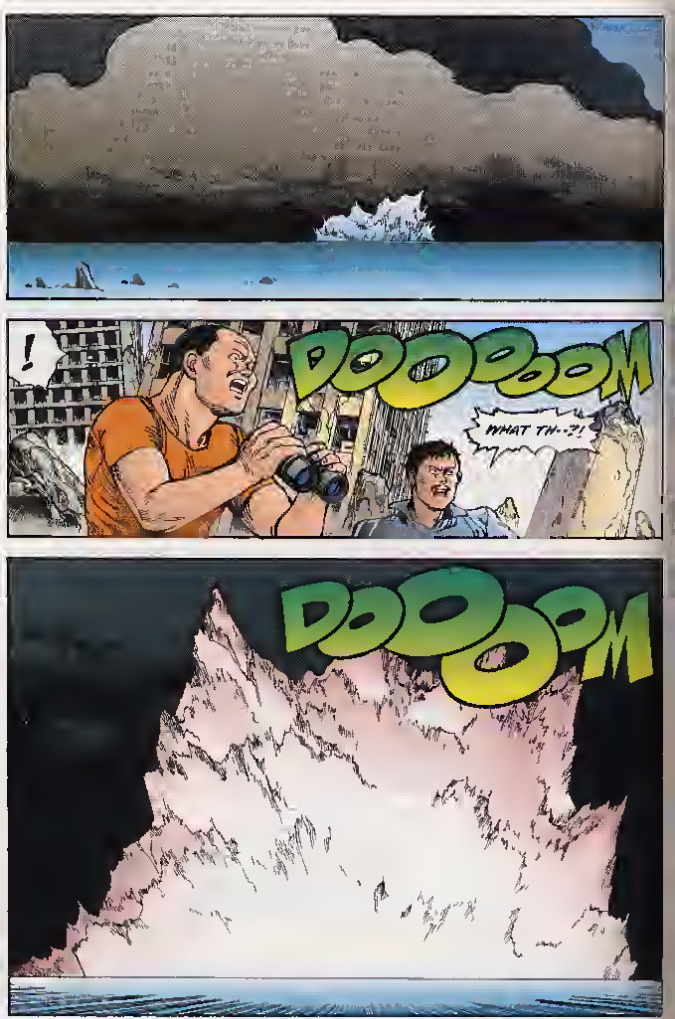
YOU'RE GOING AFTER AKIRA?
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE

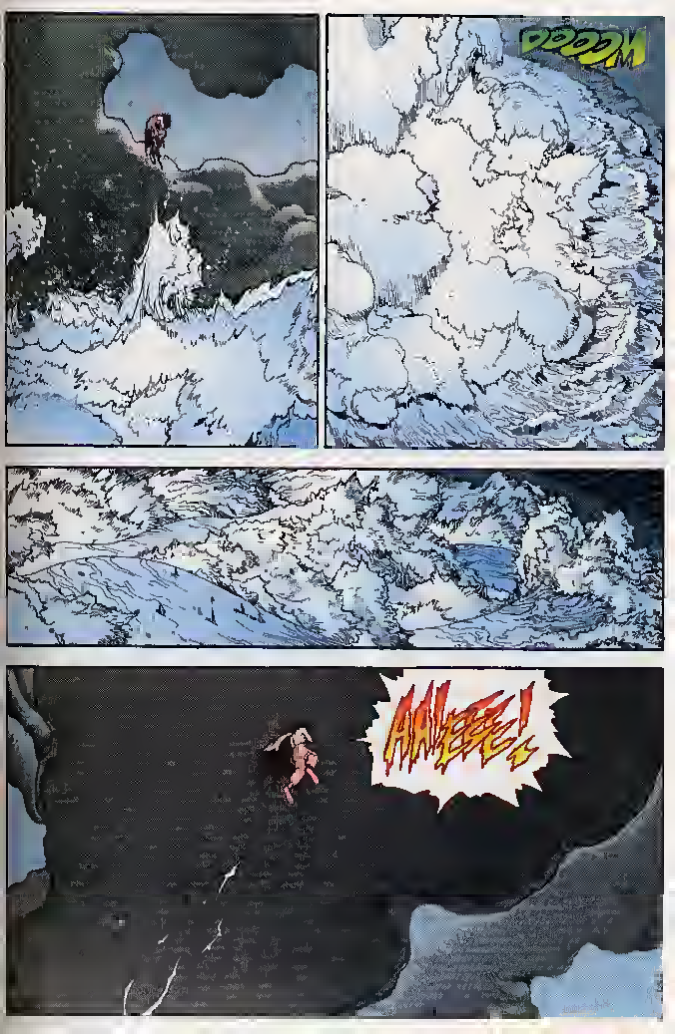
THAT DOESN'T MATTER NOW.
WHAT DOES IS THAT I'VE FINALLY GOT AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO WHAT I CAME HERE FOR.


DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANY-ONE STAYED BEHIND...
...BUT EVEN BY HIMSELF, AKIRA IS DANGEROUS.
I'VE GOTTA ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE, EVEN IF IT IS BASED ON TOTAL IGNORANCE.
I WANT TO FIND OUT WHY.
NO ONE'S HOLDING A GUN TO YOUR HEAD TO MAKE YOU COME WITH ME.
I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU ALL THE WAY... AND WHEN WE RUN FOR OUR LIVES I'LL BE RIGHT AHEAD OF YOU

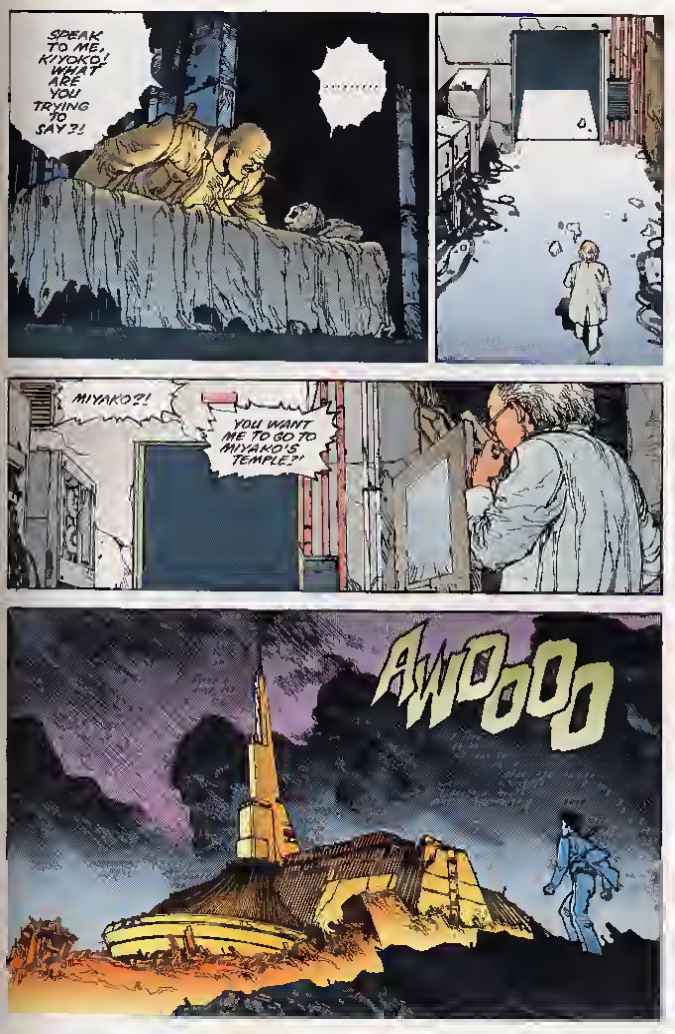
...OO...OOH...
THAT'S THE ONE THEY CALL TETSUO, ISN'T IT?
...HE'S AKIRA'S RIGHT HAND MAN.
DOES HE HAVE THE POWER?
SO I'VE HEARD. BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM USE IT.
A VERY STRANGE CUSTOMER. I HAD KIND OF A RUN-IN WITH HIM A WHILE BACK...
WISH I COULD TALK TO HIM JUST ONCE...
¡NN-NNGNH!


AARGH!
BAM
...AAH...
AAUGH!
EEP!
HE
HE VANISHED!
HELLUVA SOUND YOU JUST MADE WHAT'S UP?

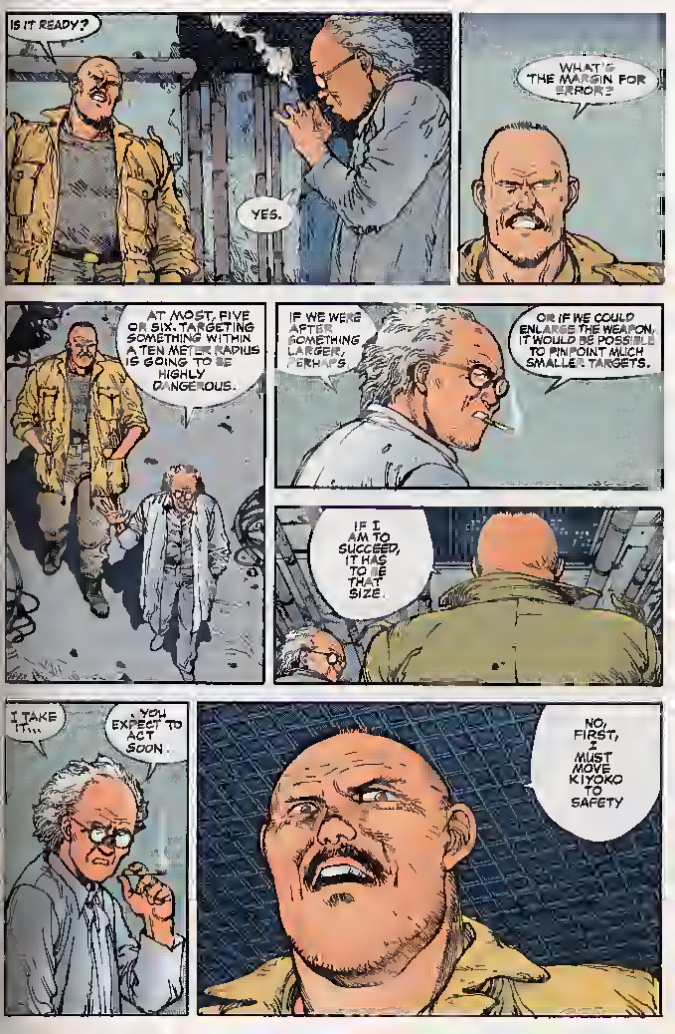

!
DOOOOOM
WHAT TH--?!
DOOOOOM

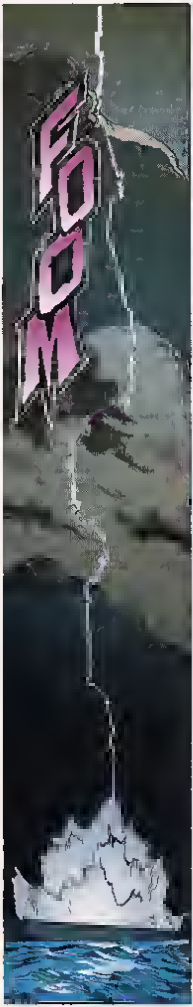

DOOM
AAAEEE!

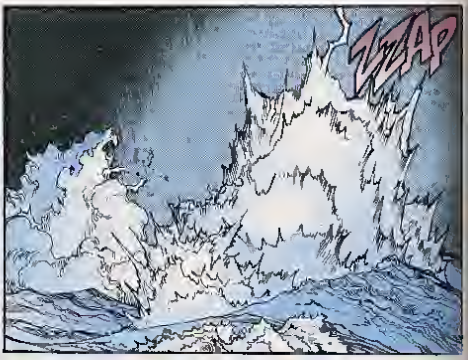
SHE'S AWAKE!
...OO-OOH..
.....
KIYOKO, IT'S ME! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME?!


SPEAK TO ME, KIYOKO! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?!
.....
MIYAKO?!
YOU WANT ME TO GO TO MIYAKO'S TEMPLE?!
AWOOOO

FORWARD!
DID THE LITTLE GIRL WAKE UP?


IS IT READY?
YES.
WHAT'S THE MARGIN FOR ERROR?
AT MOST, FIVE OR SIX. TARGETING SOMETHING WITHIN A TEN METER RADIUS IS GOING TO BE HIGHLY DANGEROUS.
IF WE WERE AFTER SOMETHING LARGER, PERHAPS
OR IF WE COULD ENLARGE THE WEAPON, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PINPOINT MUCH SMALLER TARGETS.
IF I AM TO SUCCEED, IT HAS TO BE THAT SIZE.
I TAKE IT...
. YOU EXPECT TO ACT SOON.
NO, FIRST, I MUST MOVE KIYOKO TO SAFETY


FOOM

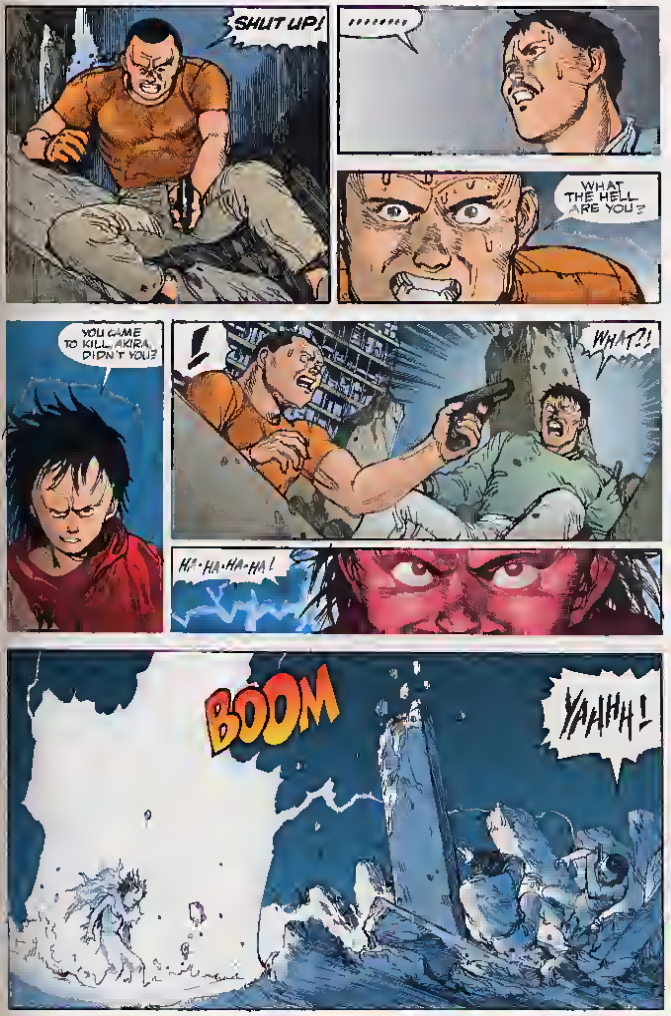

ZZZAP

IT'S COMING THIS WAY!

YAAAH!

BLABOOM
SSHHH
AUGH!
WHOOM

GASP!
TETSUO!
I SAW A LOT OF SHIPS OUT THERE.
THEY'RE...
...YOUR FRIENDS AREN'T THEY?
!
SHIPS...?
FREAK... HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
SO MANY BUT SO WEAK

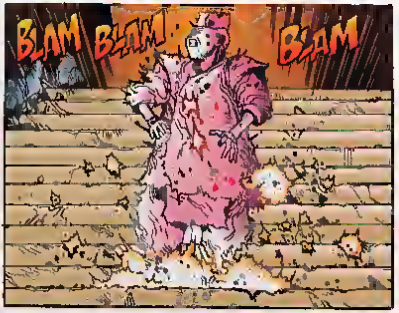

SHUT UP!
.....
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?
YOU CAME TO KILL AKIRA, DIDN'T YOU?
!
WHAT?!
HA-HA-HA-HA!
BOOM
YAHHH!

POW

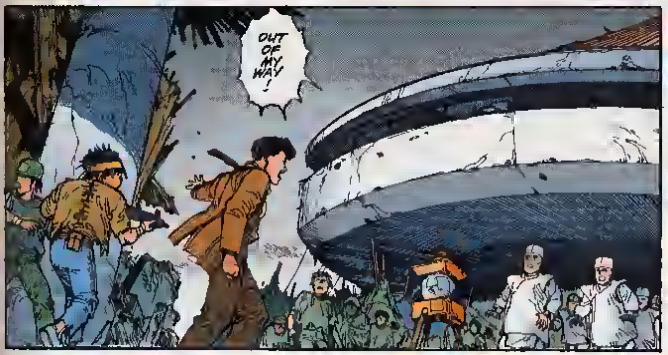
SSHHH
!
WHOOM
WHOA!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

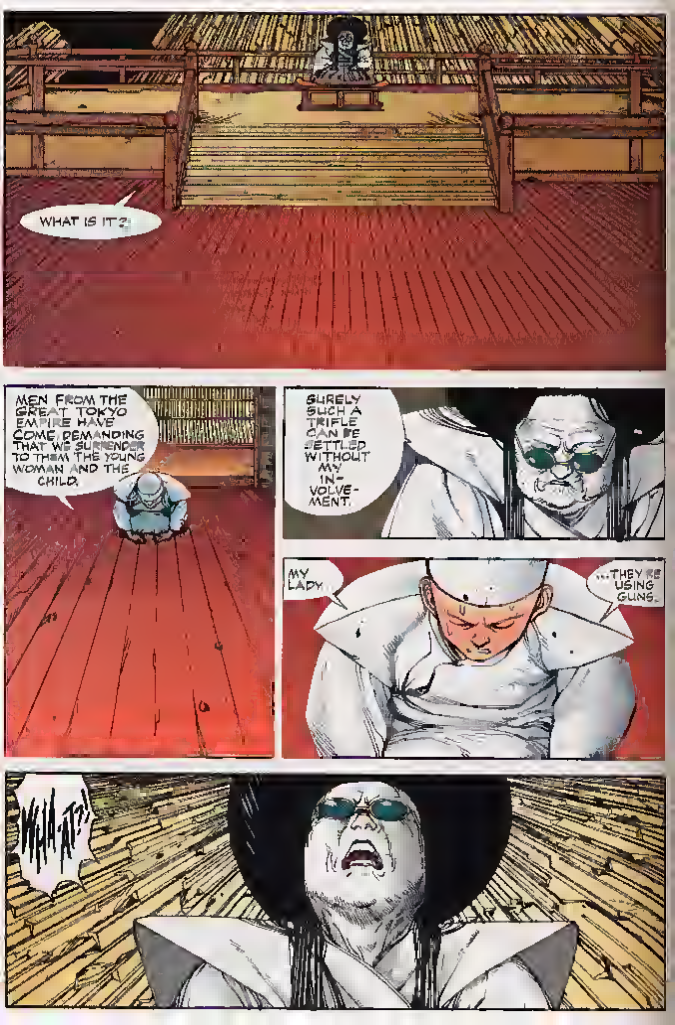
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING? I SAID MY BUSINESS IS WITH MIYAKO.
GET HER OUT HERE!
I REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT OUR LADY MAY NOT BE DISTURBED WHILE SHE IS MEDITATING.
A WOMAN AND CHILD CAME HERE LATELY. WE DEMAND THAT YOU HAND THEM OVER TO US.
THEY'RE KILLERS WHO'VE MURDERED CITIZENS OF OUR EMPIRE
THAT'S THE KIND OF PEOPLE YOU'RE HIDING HERE
I AM SORRY BUT LADY MIYAKO

SAP

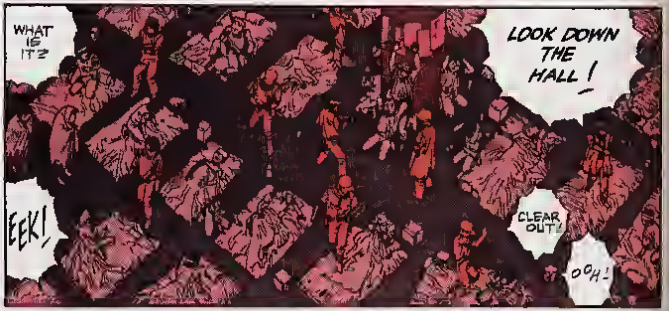

BLAM BLAM!
BLAM

TUMBLE

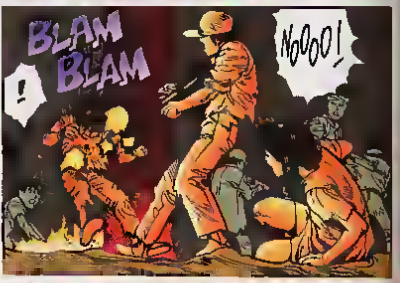

OUT OF MY WAY!

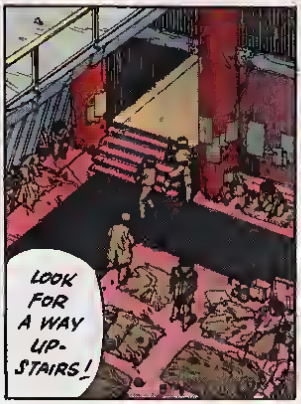

WHAT IS IT?
MEN FROM THE GREAT TOKYO EMPIRE HAVE COME, DEMANDING THAT WE SURRENDER TO THEM THE YOUNG WOMAN AND THE CHILD.
SURELY SUCH A TRIFLE CAN BE SETTLED WITHOUT MY INVOLVEMENT.
MY LADY.
...THEY'RE USING GUNS.
WHAT?!

CHARGE!!
BLAM
BLAM BLAM
HEAD FOR THE INNER CHAMBER!
ADVANCE IN GROUPS OF TWO AND THREE!
YOU GO THAT WAY!
EVERY-ONE ELSE FOLLOW ME!
TAK TAK
REPORT AT ONCE IF YOU LOCATE THE WOMAN AND CHILD!
DON'T FIRE AT THEM!
TAK

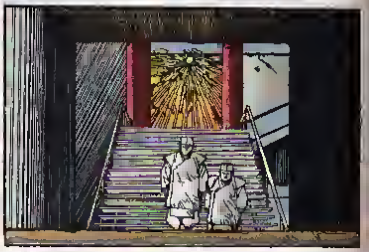

WHAT IS IT?
LOOK DOWN THE HALL!
EEK!
CLEAR OUT!
OOH!

LEAVE MY MOM ALONE!
BRAT!

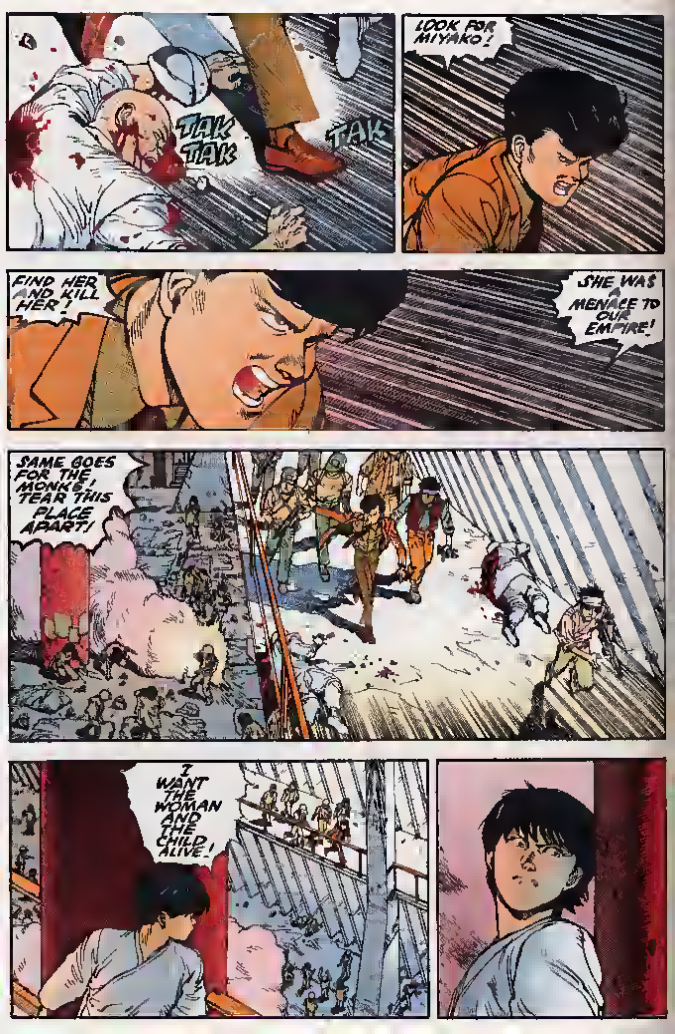

BLAM BLAM
!
NOOOO!

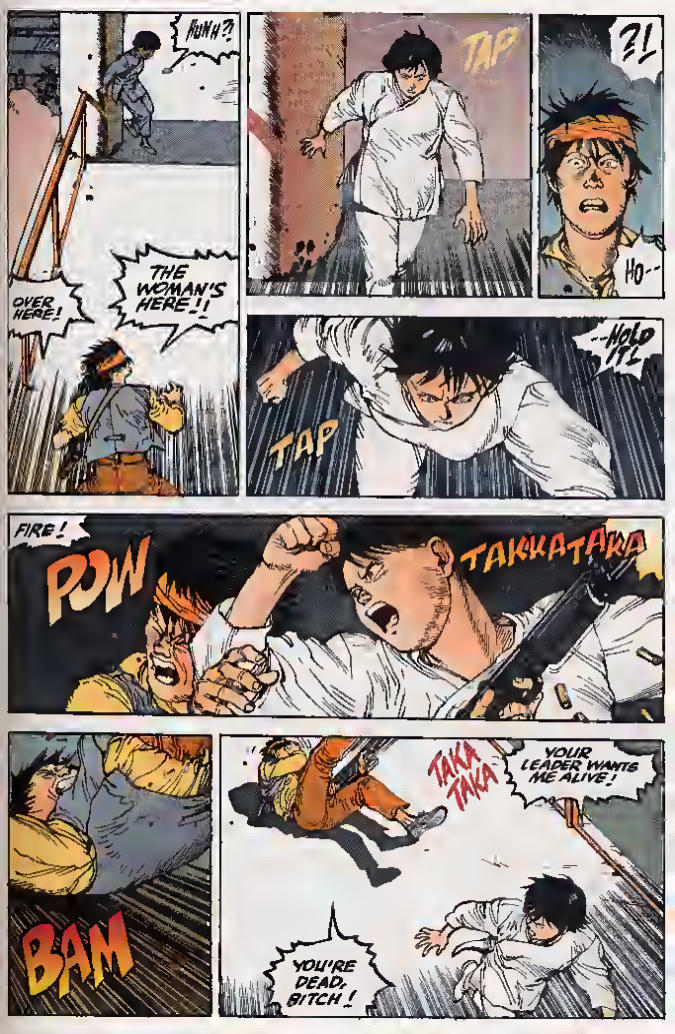

LOOK FOR A WAY UP-STAIRS!

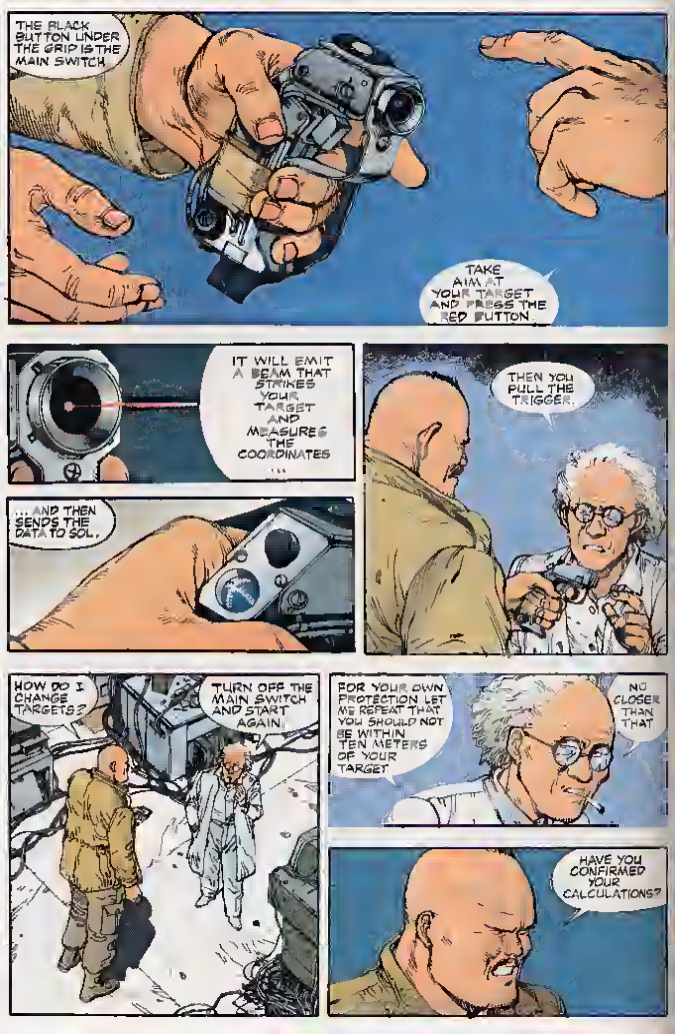
!
SOMEONE'S COMING



YOU ARE FORBIDDEN TO BRING YOUR WEAPONS ANY FURTHER!
FOUND THE STAIRS!
BOOM BOOM
OUT OF MY WAY!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HOLD YOUR FIRE!
THOSE PEOPLE ARE REFUGEES, SICK OR WOUNDED!
NOW THEY'RE JUST PLAIN DEAD!
KLAK
BUDDA BUDDA
BUDDA

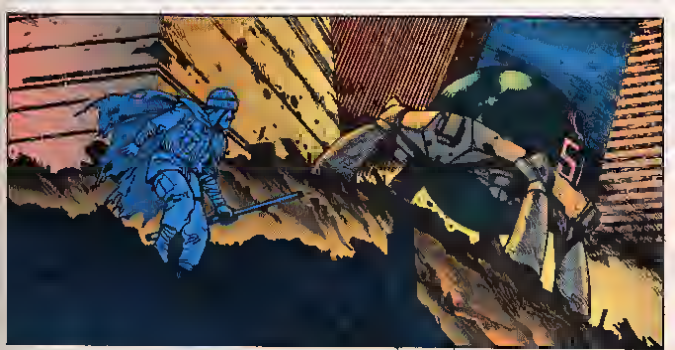

TAK TAK
TAK
LOOK FOR MIYAKO!
FIND HER AND KILL HER!
SHE WAS A MENACE TO OUR EMPIRE!
SAME GOES FOR THE MONKS, TEAR THIS PLACE APART!
I WANT THE WOMAN AND THE CHILD ALIVE!


HUH?
THE WOMAN'S HERE!
OVER HERE!
TAP
?!
HO--
--HOLD IT!
TAP
FIRE!
POW
TAKKATAKKA
BAM
TAKA TAKA
YOUR LEADER WANTS ME ALIVE!
YOU'RE DEAD, BITCH!


THE BLACK BUTTON UNDER THE GRIP IS THE MAIN SWITCH
TAKE AIM AT YOUR TARGET AND PRESS THE RED BUTTON.
IT WILL EMIT A BEAM THAT STRIKES YOUR TARGET AND MEASURES THE COORDINATES
...
... AND THEN SENDS THE DATA TO SOL.
THEN YOU PULL THE TRIGGER.
HOW DO I CHANGE TARGETS?
TURN OFF THE MAIN SWITCH AND START AGAIN.
FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION LET ME REPEAT THAT YOU SHOULD NOT BE WITHIN TEN METERS OF YOUR TARGET
NO CLOSER THAN THAT
HAVE YOU CONFIRMED YOUR CALCULATIONS?

I'D BETTER GET READY
HMPF
THEN I'LL ASSUME I'M SAFE AFTER FIFTEEN METERS
TEN, FIFTEEN, TWENTY, WHAT DOES IT MATTER WHEN A MAN'S COMMITTING SUICIDE?
TAP

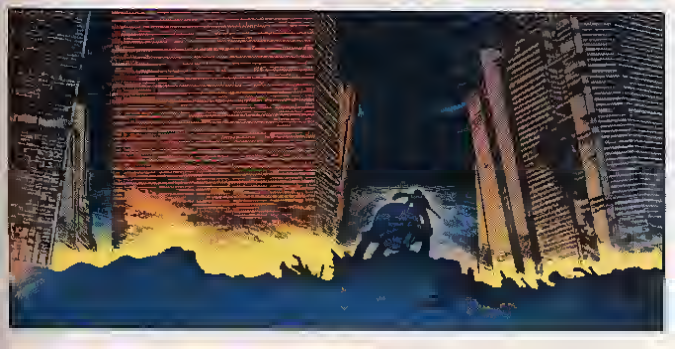
AWOOOOOOOO
THERE'S A BIG STORM COMING. WILL YOU BE OK, YZ
IT WILL MAKE MY PLANS EASIER
LET'S GO, KIYOKO!
KLANK



WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER ONE, THE WOMAN? YOU KNOW HER WOUND'S INFECT-ED.

IF ALL GOES WELL, I'LL BE BACK IN A DAY OR TWO WITH MEDI-CINE FOR HER!

.....



NEXT ISSUE: **BLOOD SIEGE**

KABA

Several months ago, readers were introduced to **KABA**, the collected illustrations of **Katsuhiro Otomo**. The book has since sold thousands of copies, and readers' reaction has been extraordinary. Hundreds of readers have written to Kodansha with their comments, some of which follow.

"A beautifully done book—worth every penny (or yen) of the price."

—Scott Russo
Brooklyn, NY

"Great! Excellent! I can't keep my hands and eyes from it!!! Inspiration!! The design is clean and the layout superb. A great variety of work. Let's see some more!!"

—James Hiroshi Meyede
San Gabriel, CA

"Very entertaining, interesting, and informative book. The translated manga was great. The best is that it's in English. You should publish more books like these and others of Otomo's comics in the U.S."

—Marc P. Brun
Sylmar, CA

"Certainly one of the best illustrator's books of the year."

—Jean-Pierre Dupont
Brussels, Belgium

"Brilliant! Katsuhiro Otomo is a superb technician. It was an enlightening experience from the visual point-of-view."

—Edward D. Lee
New York, NY

"An amazing collection of art! I look forward to seeing more collections of Katsuhiro Otomo's artwork."

—Ross Brady
Rockville, MD

"Beautiful work and nice packaging. Quality printing. Beautiful work."

—Kee Koo
Forest Hills, NY

"Fantastic! It should be an annual event!"

—Joachim H. Nelge
Brooklyn, NY

"Excellent! A true compendium of a great talent—one of the best, if not the best, illustrations ever—I am honored to have previewed this book and to own it."

—Solomon C. Peyne, II
Detroit, MI

"It is one of Katsuhiro Otomo's best volumes! I only wish there were more of his illustration books!"

—Weyendt Dettis
Cuyahoga Falls, OH

The English-language version of the animated film **AKIRA** will play in the following cities during the month of June:

MAITLAND, FL (near ORLANDO)
ENZIAN THEATER
May 29—June 10

SAN ANTONIO, TX
CROSSROADS THEATER
June 1—14

SACRAMENTO, CA
TOWER SACRAMENTO THEATER
June 8—10

SPOKANE, WA
MAGIC LANTERN
June 8—21

TAMPA, FL
TAMPA THEATER
June 15—21

ROCHESTER, NY
LITTLE THEATER
June 15—28

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YASUMITSU SUETAKE
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AKIRA SAITO
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Kodansha Ltd.

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managing editor • New York

Epic Comics

JO DUFFY
english adaptation

STEVE OLIFF
with the
OLYOPTICS COMPUTER CREW
colorists

MICHAEL HIGGINS
letterer

EDWARD MURR
production

MARIE JAVINS
assistant editor

MARGARET CLARK
editor

CARL POTTS
executive editor

Neo-Tokyo is not at war—but one would never know it from the battles that rage in the city. There is the Colonel, fighting for the lives of Chiyoko and Kiyoko. There is Tetsuo, facing off against the foreign warships positioned ominously off the coast. And there is the army of the Emperor Akira, marching on the temple of Lady Miyako, setting brother against brother in a conflict that looses the shattered city's hold on survival...and sends it spiraling down into a dark night of slaughter.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA